

## Desiree Taggart Memorial Award Winners 2006

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The Governor's appointed State Workforce Investment Board proudly announced the following award recipients for the Governor's Desiree Taggart Memorial Award for Workforce Development:



Opportunities, Inc. of Great Falls was recognized as the ***Outstanding Business of the Year***, for empowering low-income families to obtain self-sufficiency; for offering staff continuing education and training, allowing for increased marketability and self-reliance. According to the self-nomination, a third of Opportunities, Inc. employees have previously been clients in parent volunteer programs.

Yvonneda (Henry) Thompson of Chief Dull Knife College Extension Services in Lane Deer received the award for ***Individual Workforce Development Achievement*** for her dedication to the Northern Cheyenne community. "Chief Dull Knife College Extension Services' key to success has been building a network of invested individuals working together to grow a healthier way of living, respectful of Native culture, for the betterment of Indian people," said Thompson upon award. Thompson was nominated by former reservation resident and current DLI Communications Director, Michelle Robinson.



Youth and Family Services of St. Labre Indian School in Ashland received the award for ***Quality Program*** for developing and implementing, in partnership, activities to improve the chances of employment and their commitment to helping clients achieve self-sufficiency. Youth and Family Services were unable to attend the awards ceremony, however, Shirley Skinner of the ***Career Development Workforce Center***, who nominated the program, will present an award to Director Vicki DeTavanier on September 15.

"Award recipients are commended for their admirable and sincere commitment to the people and communities they serve," said State Workforce Investment Board Chairman Dan Miles.

The State Workforce Investment Board is currently soliciting 2007 nominations. Montana workforce development organizations, businesses and individuals are eligible for the awards based on outstanding achievement or contributions to employment and training efforts in Montana, including: improved productivity, creativity, economy and efficiency in Montana's workforce system.

Award nominations are due to the State Workforce Investment Board by May 31, 2007, and should be mailed to PO Box 1728, Helena, MT 59624. For more information, visit the State Workforce Investment Board's website of: [www.swib.mt.gov](http://www.swib.mt.gov) (Resources tab), or contact Chris Wilhelm at (406)444-4480.